Plan is to complete necessary studies of the river basins, reservoirs and links required for establishing the feasibility of five of the seventeen water transfer links.

Number of graduatee in science technology, engineering and medical sciences settling abroad

244. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate number of graduates in Science Technology, Engineering and Medical Sciences etc. going and settling abroad every year;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to arrest 'brain drain' from the country; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE *(SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN)*: (a) Information is not available.

(b) and (c) A number of measures have been taken from time to time in the past to attract Indian scientists and technologists settled abroad to come back to the country. Some of these are:

— There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of Scientists Pool.

— A provision has also been made for creation of supernumerary posts.

— With a view to assisting non-resident Indians to secure expeditious clearance of their applications for setting up of industrial units in the country, a Special Cell has been created in the Ministry of Industry.

— New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) etc. have been set up and some of these are high technology areas which are likely to provide opportunities for scientists and technologists and attract them into the country.

— Total outlay for science and technology has been increased in the successive Five Year Plans.

— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers has been made to scientific institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.

— Facilities to import equipment have been provided to the scientists and technologists returning from abroad.

— Programmes have been launched through which core groups of scientists are created in the country with all necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— Indian origin professional men and women who have distinguished themselves in their fields of activity and are settled abroad are being invited for short term technical assignments to assist in our developmental efforts in frontier areas of technology and emerging areas of science through a UNDP sponsored programme known as TOKTEN (Transfer of knowhow through expatriate Nationals).

Indo-China dialogue on border dispute

245. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to upgrade the level of ongoing India-China dialogue on the border dispute and other bilateral issues and whether China has expressed its willingness to consider the same; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS